

# **Beaver Lake, Jasper County and Newton County collection S1675**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

May 17, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	United States. Office of Land Use and Water Planning.
<b>Title</b>	Beaver Lake, Jasper County and Newton County collection
<b>Date</b>	1868, 1871
<b>Extent</b>	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S1675

### Preferred Citation

Beaver Lake, Jasper County and Newton County collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Historical Note

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Indiana's Beaver Lake extended into Newton and Jasper Counties, and originally encompassed 16,000 acres. Its shallow waters were generally less than 15 feet deep, offering natural habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. The Swamp Act Law of 1852 provided a mechanism to drain and survey America's swamp lands for settlement. In 1853 efforts began to drain Beaver Lake through a series of ditches and channels. By 1871, three quarters of the lake had been drained, and by 1880, most of Beaver Lake was dry, surveyed, and reclaimed for settlement.

Sources: Beaver Lake, Land of Enchantment, Elmore Barce, 1938, [www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton); Kankakee Valley Historical Society, [kankakeevalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://kankakeevalleyhistoricalsociety.org)

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection includes 2 items. The first item is a copy of a letter, March 9, 1868, from Joseph S. Wilson, Commissioner, Department of the Interior, General Land Office, to Honorable John L. Dawson, Washington, D.C., regarding the survey of swamp lands of Beaver Lake, Jasper County, Indiana.

The second item is a copy of a letter, November 18, 1871, from Willis Drummond, Commissioner, Department of the Interior, General Land Office, to Parker Dresser, Esq., Washington, D.C., regarding the application of citizens of Newton County, Indiana, for the survey of swamp lands of Beaver Lake, Newton County, Indiana

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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## **Publication Information**

Rare Books and Manuscripts

## **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

## **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

## **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed 2017/04/27 by Linda Gellert. EAD finding aid created 2017/04/27 by Linda Gellert.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Beaver Lake (Jasper County, Ind.)
- Beaver Lake (Newton County, Ind.)

### **Subject(s)**

- Land drainage